

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4366

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USNATO

USCINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USMISSION USUN

USNMR SHAPE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

CONFIDENTIAL NICOSIA 2703

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UNCS CY TU GR

SUBJECT: HUMANITARIAN TALKS

1. UN SPECIAL REP DE CUELLAR'S EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE RESUMPTION OF HUMANITARIAN TALKS CONTINUED ON SEPTEMBER 4 WHEN HE MET WITH GREEK INTERLOCUTORS TASSOS PAPADOPOULOS. AFTER THE MEETING BOTH PAPADOPOULOS AND DE CUELLAR MADE POSITIVE STATEMENTS BUT NEITHER WOULD GIVE REPORTERS A SPECIFIC DATE WHEN HUMANITARIAN TALKS WOULD OCCUR.

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2. FOLLOWING SEPTEMBER 3 MEETING, ONAN ISSUED A STATEMENT

IN WHICH HE SAID "THERE WERE ONLY TWO HUMANITARIAN ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED AND THESE WERE THE GREEK CYPRIOT WISH TO MOVE TO THE SOUTH, AND THE APPOINTMENT OF TEACHERS FOR GREEK CYPRIOT SCHOOLS IN NORTHERN CYPRUS." ONAN ADDED THAT HE "HAD THEREFORE MADE IT CLEAR TO MR DE CUELLAR THAT THE QUESTION OF SO-CALLED 'MISSING PERSONS' SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED AND THAT THERE WOULD BE NO MEETING IF THE QUESTION WAS RAISED."

3. IN RESPONSE, ON SEPTEMBER 4 PAPADOPOULOS SAID, "THE TURKISH CYPRIOT SIDE CANNOT DICTATE TO THE GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE WHAT MATTERS WE SHOULD RAISE DURING THE TALKS ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUES...THE FACT THAT THE TURKISH CYPRIOT SIDE HAS REPEATEDLY AND OFFICIALLY MAINTAINED THAT 'NO UNDECLARED GREEK PRISONER OF WAR IS BEING HELD' DOES NOT CLOSE THE MATTER...THEREFORE THE GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE CANNOT CONSIDER THE MATTER CLOSED AND WILL CONTINUE RAISING IT."

4. SO, DESPITE POSITIVE INDICATIONS EARLY IN THE WEEK OF AUGUST 30, IT NOW APPEARS THAT MISSING PERSONS ISSUE IS PREVENTING AN EARLY MEETING AT THE LEDRA PALACE TO DISCUSS HUMANITARIAN ISSUES. THE OUTLOOK IS FURTHER CLOUDED BY THE APPARENT LINKAGE BY THE TURKS OF HUMANITARIAN TALKS AND CONCLUSION OF THE UNFICYP PROCES VERBAL. UN SOURCES REPORT THAT ONAN DID NOT EXPLICITLY MAKE CONCLUSION OF PROCES VERBAL A CONDITION FOR TALKS' RESUMPTION (AS ONAN DID WITH US - REFTEL),#BUT MADE IT CLEAR THAT CONCLUSION OF THE UNFICYP AGREEMENT WOULD HELP TO SPEED HUMANITARIAN TALKS.

DILLERY

NOTE BY OC/T: #REFTEL OMITTED AS RECEIVED

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